

Draft Terms of Reference for the GARM-III “Models” Meeting

(Last Revised: Oct. 31, 2007)

1. For each stock, consider the applicability of one or more of the following modeling approaches to assess stock status:
 - Index methods
 - Production Models
 - Age- or Length-based Models
2. For certain stocks that are aged, compare and contrast the utility of statistical catch-at-age vs. VPA based models with respect to the following criteria:
 - Retrospective patterns
 - Flexibility to account for alternative parameterizations
 - Ability to incorporate external sources of information, especially tagging and environmental data
 - Ability to estimate parameters incorporating prior, external information.
3. Address the implications of zeros in the evaluation of fishery independent indices.
4. Examine potential factors responsible for retrospective patterns.
5. For each stock, define the assessment model that will be used to determine stock status and productivity characteristics until the next “benchmark” assessment is conducted. Where possible, apply the models to data (probably through 2006), to obtain current and historical estimates of F and B and estimates of uncertainty.
6. Evaluate the sufficiency of the assessment models to estimate measures of stock status consistent with Biological Reference Points.